

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00812 140652Z

13

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /064 W

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R 131320Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6887

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0812

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, MT

SUBJECT: MALTESE ATTENDANCE AT COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED MEETING

REF: STATE 171412

1. GOM FOREIGN SECRETARY ABELA INFORMS US THAT NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN ON MALTESE REPRESENTATION AT THE COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED MEETINGS. HE DOUBTS THAT PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF WILL WANT TO ATTEND, BECAUSE THE MID-AUGUST DATES MIGHT BE UNCOMFORTABLY CLOSE TO THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD HERE POSSIBLY IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER. FOR THE SAME REASON, ABELA BELIEVED THAT OTHER CABINET MINISTERS WOULD "RESIST" GOING TO COLOMBO AT THAT TIME. AT ANY RATE, MINTOFF IS LIKELY TO DELAY DECIDING ON THE MALTESE DELEGATION UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.

2. COMMENT: IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, ABELA ADMITTED THAT IT REMAINS POSSIBLE THAT MINTOFF MAY DECIDE TO GO TO COLOMBO HIMSELF, IN THE HOPE OF GAINING SOME INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION AND PUBLICITY THERE WHICH HE COULD USE TO HIS ELECTORAL ADVANTAGE. SMITH

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Message Attributes

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